



# **FACE Program Fact Sheet**

## **Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation**

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## **FARMER DIES AFTER BEING PINNED BETWEEN BUCKET AND FRAME OF SKID STEER LOADER**

### ***BACKGROUND***

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received reports of 115 fatal occupational injuries during 1997. Two of those incidents occurred when farmers were pinned between the bucket and frame of a skid steer loader.

This fact sheet describes one of the incidents and requests that farmers and employers who use skid steer loaders bring the following recommendations to the attention of loader operators.



### ***THE INCIDENT***

A 70-year-old dairy farmer died after being pinned between the bucket and frame of a skid steer loader. The victim wore a knee brace while he worked, but found it difficult to climb in and out of the operator's seat. The victim and his son worked together throughout the morning of the incident, doing routine farm chores. When the victim finished cleaning the barn with the loader, he drove the loader behind a machine shed to remove a part from an old manure spreader, using the loader bucket to lift an edge of the spreader. Apparently, the victim lowered the safety bars, exited the loader with the bucket in the raised position, then stood in front of the loader frame to operate the bucket control handle. The bucket came down and pinned the victim against the frame of the loader. The victim's son saw him pinned by the bucket, and climbed into the cab to raise the bucket. The son ran to the house and yelled to his mother to call for emergency services.

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

To prevent similar occurrences, farmers and other skid steer loader operators should:

- **remain seated in the operator's compartment while operating the loader.**
- **operate the loader with the seat belt fastened and restraint bar in place.**

• In addition, skid steer operators who have difficulty getting onto the operator's seat should:

- **contact the county extension office to locate organizations and agencies that help farmers and other workers with conditions that limit their mobility.**

**The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.**

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# **PLEASE POST**

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**FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.**

**If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:**

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